

USAR Family Program Update

Welcome to this month's email of *The Connection-Army Reserve Family Program Update*. This month we will be focusing on FY04 training objectives and priorities for Regional Readiness Commands. These training events are to be orchestrated by each Family Program Office at each Regional Readiness Command for all the units within their area of responsibility. With the numerous mobilizations, deployments, and reunions, it may be difficult for most Family Program Offices to conduct all trainings listed. These are the trainings and the priority in which they should be conducted.

1. Deployment Cycle Support for Army Reserve Families Training
2. Chain of Command Orientation
3. Operation READY Training
4. Family Program Academy Training (Fundamental and Developmental)

The Army Reserve Family Program Office is committed to providing standardizing family program training throughout the Army Reserve Command to ensure continuity.

Deployment Cycle Support for Army Reserve Families Training

As we continue to support the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT), our Soldiers are being mobilized and deployed more frequently and for longer tours of duty. Deployment Cycle Support for Army Reserve Families Training was designed to strengthen the support to families and enable Soldiers to focus on the mission by knowing that resources are available to assist their families to be self-reliant.

The purpose of this twelve-hour training is to provide valuable instruction for those that will deal directly on a daily basis at the unit level with Soldiers and families during the mobilization, deployment, sustainment, and reunion phases of the deployment cycle. This includes Rear Detachment Officers in Charge (RDOIC), Chaplains, and Family Readiness Group Leaders.

Since the Army Reserve is primarily community-based, Information and Referral is emphasised at this training while addressing issues with finance, TRICARE, legal, the emotional cycle, media relations, and programs and services available to Soldiers and families affected by deployment.

Contact your servicing Family Program office for upcoming training in your area. If unable to attend the Deployment Cycle Support for Army Reserve Families Training offered in your area, you may attend training offered by another Command subject to the availability of funds.

Chain of Command Orientation

Many in the chain of command are not aware of the scope of family programs within the Army Reserve. This twelve-hour orientation is designed for the G-1 staff from the headquarters through the unit leadership to learn more about family programs. Briefings are provided on all aspects of family programs such as mobilization training, volunteer management, Army Family Action Plan (AFAP). Issues and concerns can be addressed by all participants.

Operation READY

The Operation READY (Resources for Educating About Deployment and You) curriculum is a series of training modules, videotapes, and resource books published for the Army as a resource for staff in training Army families who are affected by deployments. Operation READY materials include: Pre-deployment and Ongoing Readiness, Family Assistance Center, Homecoming and Reunion, The Army FRG Leaders' Handbook, and The Army Leader's Desk Reference for Soldier/Family Readiness.

The training is a train-the-trainer program for Instructors and Senior Volunteer Resource Instructors (SVRI) to take back to units to show members at the unit level how to access and use the materials.

Family Program Academy

Many volunteers, family members, and unit leadership are familiar with the Family Program Academy (FPA) training both Fundamental and Developmental. Fundamental FPA training includes the basics that help establish and maintain a viable, functioning Family Readiness Group (FRG) at the unit level. Developmental FPA training builds on those basics and enhances the participant's capability to sustain and enhance unit family programs.

If there is no Family Program Academy training in your region, the training is still available at the unit level. We have qualified Senior Volunteer Resource Instructors (SVRIs) who can provide the training and present a certification of completion. Arrange for this training by contacting your servicing Family Program Office.

Much thought went into the development of these new training objectives and the priority order. Continuing “business as usual” is no longer an option to keep up with trends and the needs of Soldiers, their families and military leadership.

Our focus is on the current environment and how best to meet those needs. For more than a decade, Family Program Academies have been the foundation of family program training. We can't assume because of the dollars spent, the people trained, and the number of times the training has taken place over the years, that a Family Readiness Group will be in place when a unit deploys. In fact, more often than not, while the unit is mobilizing, the Family Readiness Group (FRG) is forming, finding a leader, and learning all they need to know to have an active, functioning FRG.

Your servicing Family Program Office will offer training to establish and maintain Family Readiness Groups that promoting self-reliance, resiliency, and stability during war and peace.

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